2018 CRID/RMASLA/ASLTAC "Reframing Your Interpreting Journey" Conference

Denver, CO April 20-22, 2018

Workshop Descriptions

Parsing: A New Practice Model for Interpreters (Wink):

Parsing is an innovative tool that gives interpreters and students a deliberate practice model to enhance their work. It forces users to break English form and to think critically about ASL when generating options for rendering an interpreted message in ASL. This workshop will instruct participants on how to parse written English texts using a flowchart which will guide comprehension of the English text (and detachment from it) and provide structured choices for the target text. This deliberate practice provides the key to creating an internal framework for processed interpretation. With continued use and internalization of the process, participants will produce live work with more awareness and intentional choices for creating equivalent messages

Table Interpreter in Court: The Monitor Role (Lariisa McClung):
We will examine the functions of the Table interpreter, with in-depth examination of the role as monitor of the work of the Proceedings Interpreters. We will discuss the politics and the how-to of informing who and when if an error needs to be addressed. We will look at a decision-making matrix, as well as preparation guidelines and tools at our disposal.

The Role of Interpreter in Emergency Management (Paul Simmons, Jodi Graham, Victoria Novoselski):
With the increasing emphasis on creating a fully inclusive society, we are seeing more emergency management offices and administrations on a local, state, and federal levels trying to accommodate individuals with disabilities within their jurisdictions. However, often, such bodies tend to overlook the importance of ensuring the provision of qualified and competent interpreters to ensure effective communication for Deaf

individuals. The uniqueness of effective translation from the spoken language into sign language and vise versa is often marginalized or ignored, which often leads to serious breakdown in communication and the marginalization of Deaf communities during times of disasters.

Courageous Conversations: Power, Privilege, and Positive Intent (Facilitated by Jenn Sweeney and Panel Members from the ASL Community):

Following in the footsteps of the 2017 RID LEADTOGETHER Conference, this event will have a panel discussing their experiences with power, privilege, and positive leadership within the ASL community and then begin round table discussions among all participants present. The theme of "Reframing" for the 2018 conference was born from this event.

Reframing Depiction: Classifiers/Depicting Verbs and Partitioning (WINK):

How many classifiers/depicting verbs are there? Would you be surprised to know the list of classifiers can be simplified to only three different types? How do they work? What is going on in people's minds when they use them? Will I ever learn how to use them!? Come and see a different approach to classifiers using a cognitive linguistics approach to understand the conceptual structures that give rise to classifier use in American Sign Language. Within this workshop focus will be given to Whole Entity constructions and how location, manner, and path are combined to construct depicting verbs. Instrument depicting verbs and Size and Shape Specifiers differ from whole entity depicting verbs. But how? One cognitive explanation can be found in what they foreground and what they background. How are these units stored in the lexicon and how are they made? In answering this question we will again turn to a cognitive explanation and will discuss one such proposal, the Analogue Building Model. In addition, we will study the body's role with instrument classifiers constructions and how embodied experiences motivate these. Finally, we will also discuss how SaSS constructions also work with whole entity depicting verbs and how their progression through space illuminates how we perceive objects in the physical world. Analyzing how linguistic units and the conceptual perception of the world are related can help elucidate how and when to employ these items in our daily lives.

Blockbuster (Wink):

Have you ever seen an ASL story and thought, "That's like watching a movie!"? Cinematographers use certain conventions (their "grammar") for filming and editing. This workshop examines the parallels between cinematic techniques and ASL grammar conventions such as use of space, depiction, sign modification, and facial affect. Cinematic ASL techniques are not only for theatrical settings. They are commonly used by native signers when discussing anatomy, conducting an interview in a legal setting, teaching history, or telling a story. Incorporating these techniques supports linguistic integrity in interpreted messages. In addition to producing them, it's imperative interpreters are able to recognize them receptively to deduce their intended purpose. This workshop includes some of the most important conventions for conveying meaning through particular cinematic techniques which relate directly to ASL grammar as employed by native ASL users.

Mental Health Counseling: What Interpreters Need to Know (Paul Reeck):

This workshop is an interactive meeting. It is designed to help ASL interpreters prepare for mental health interpreting prior to an assignment. Often an interpreter will get the name of the client, the clinician's name and hope there is some information that can be given prior to the assignment. This workshop will help the mental health interpreter learn to better prepare for the interpreting process from meeting the counselor, gathering information, and a mental self assessment post assignment for when traumatic circumstances are involved. The presenter, who is a mental health counselor and also a certified sign language interpreter, will discuss what interpreters should know about the assignment and why; he will provide suggestions for the colleague in preparation to the assignment for a successful interpreting process. The presenter will undertake this workshop through the lens of the counselor with an interpreter-counselor perspective.

Pauses; to fill or not to fill… (Karen Boyd): From time to time we all lose our train of thought. We pause as we try to recall what we were saying or what we intend to say. When a speaker temporarily forgets, or is in the process of retrieving thoughts, the subsequent pause is sometimes filled with phrases like uhh, or umm. This workshop will touch on multiple research studies on pauses, and examples of pauses; then use that information during practice.

The Self Repairs from Spoken English to ASL (Karen Boyd):
Self-Repairs involve a word or words that were disregarded from speakers "intended" utterance. As English speakers repair unintended or ambiguous messages, sign language interpreters need to know how the cue is used as an utterance boundary to imply a repair will occur, and the editing terms used to inform that an error is being corrected. This workshop aims to examine research on self-repairs and provide hands on practice of how to sign the self-repairs in ASL

How to Link Complex English Constructs with Complex ASL Constructs & Vice Versa (Dr. Curt Radford):
In recent years there has been an increase interest in American Sign Language (ASL). Consequently several schools and programs now provide ASL classes. However there are several misconceptions about ASL. Such as ASL is easy to learn because it is a picture-like language or some kind of gesture. Another common misconception is often ASL learners believe they can become interpreters after one or two classes. It is known that ASL is a complete and complex language. Therefore in order to master ASL it requires extensive training, exposure and practice. One particular way to master ASL is to learn three specific tools that will be discussed in this presentation. This presentation is an interactive, hands-on opportunity for participants to learn tools for the teaching and use of academic ASL. Participants will learn how to link complex English constructs with complex ASL constructs and vice versa. The focus will be on the use of space, classifiers, and facial expression to establish, clarify, and expand on complex concepts.